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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CAMEROON

(CMR/92/008): Environment Management

IPF: (1992-96) $9 700 000

Date of approval by the AC:1/	16 June 1993
Expected duration:	18 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Environment and Forests
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 971 000
Total UNDP budget:	$ 971 000

Project background

Cameroon covers a total area of 475,000 km. with a population of approximately 12 million inhabitants. The country can be divided into five ecological zones each requiring specific measures for environment protection. These zones differ from each other not only in terms of ecology, but also in terms of farming systems, pastoral activities, fishing, and settlement patterns. These are Sudano-Sahelian zone, Savanah, West and high plateau, and the humid forest. The country is the second in Africa in its biodiversity. Cameroon's potential for sustained economic growth is based on the rational exploitation of its natural and human resources. However, the economy has been declining since 1986 after over 10 years of high growth rates, balanced budgets, and a low level of indebtedness. The decline has been due to a drastic fall in producer prices of its main exports: coffee, cocoa, timber, rubber and oil. Indebtedness has increased markedly since 1986, employment has fallen and so has investment despite the application of Structural Adjustment Programme and more than 24 percent increase in the volume of agricultural exports. In such a situation, over-exploitation of the country's natural resource is an attractive option for dealing with the crisis. Hence the Government has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval to lead stronger coordination and integrated approach of environment management.

With TSS-1 funds, IPF, PDF and donor contributions, UNDP has assisted the Government in drawing up an eight-point comprehensive priority programme, namely: (1) preparation of a National Environment Management Plan (NEMP); (2) setting up of a public education and sensitization programme; (3) training programmes for Environment Management for Government staff, as well as other personnel directly involved in Environment Management; (4) setting up a data base of environment information; (5) finalizing and implementing the national strategy and Plan of Action for combating drought and desertification; (6) protection of marine and coastal ecosystems; (7) setting up a specific system for the protection and rational exploitation of natural biodiversity; and (8) establishing a programme for urban environmental programmes in particular, waste disposals, squatter settlements, etc.

The implementation of the priority programme has already started (even if partially) and firm commitments upto 40 percent of its costs were made so far, including inter alia UNSO, GEF/World Bank and GEF/UNDP. A $12 million loan from the Islamic Bank is being negotiated as well as Capacity 21 participation to the elaboration of the National Environment Plan . The total cost of the priority programme is estimated at $25 million. A sectoral consultation of Donors, organized by UNDP, has been scheduled on 7 July 1993 for endorsing the programme strategy and agreeing on funding commitments. Further programme expansion and resource mobilization will be sought in the future.

1/ **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) formulate a long-term national environment strategy and management plan (NEMP), which will follow a inter-disciplinary integrated approach, and be based on the work produced by sectoral and thematic committees at interministerial level involving private and NGO's associations; and (b) improving the national capacity for better management of the process. The coordination structures and in particular, the coordinating Unit in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which has the responsibility for the implementation of the national priority programme will be critical to the attainment of the overall objective.

Through MBO's seminars at national and regional levels, the programme will ensure grass-roots participation to the formulation of the NEMP and proposing elements for the formulation of an environment policy and strategy. Orientation courses will be implemented at national and provincial levels to educate the technical and adminitrative services and the grass-roots associations on basic issues/concepts of environmental management.

Inputs

UNDP will provide an international specialist (18 man-months) for the Co-ordination Unit, international and national consultants (six man-months and 25 man-months respectively) for organising the orientation courses, and formulating the national plan; administrative support; training and study tours; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	629 100
Training	42 700
Equipment	243 000
Miscellaneous	56 200
Total	971 000

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